

natural CONNECTIONS

Spring
2010

Mecklenburg County Nature Preserves and Natural Resources

issue 1

Luckily, We Live in Charlotte, North Carolina

By Jose Chavez, Reedy Creek Nature Center Manager

I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2001. The city seemed to be the perfect size with all the benefits of a large metropolitan area, yet without the issues of many large urban areas like New York or Los Angeles. On my first day exploring the city I was trying to find where things were and identify some landmarks. Surprisingly, a lot of roads and shopping centers seemed to disappear behind large forested areas. It was very exciting to discover a city that felt like it was sprinkled in the woods.

As the population of Charlotte exploded in the past few years, so did construction, widening Hwy 49 all the way to the South Carolina border, shopping centers and subdivisions sprouting as I-485 is being built. Those green spaces got smaller and smaller, the places where most people grew up, playing during their childhood in the woods behind

their house have been reduced to small ravines, ditches or are totally gone.

Now, more than ever people are spending less time in the great outdoors interacting with nature. Do you remember when you were young and would spend some quality time running and splashing in the rain? It was not the rain who left that relationship, it was you. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation has great places for you to have a picnic lunch, go for a hike or - if you like gadgets - go geocaching.

I could move to a smaller Charlotte like the one in the northern state of Vermont, with a little over 3,500 habitants, or the slow paced Charlotte, Tennessee with 1,153 people, but there is something special about the Queen City. All the parks and nature preserves are perfect places to catch up and restart that personal relationship with the outdoors.

With this in mind Reedy Creek Nature Center has invited the Arbor Day Foundation to offer two workshops on May 21 and 22 to share with you the benefits of using nature as a learning space. This interactive workshop emphasizes the need for children to have consistent time outdoors with an interested, caring adult. The group discusses some of the common barriers to preschool and elementary children's ability to create positive connections with the natural world and what parents and educators can do to counteract them.



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*"If a child is to keep
alive his inborn sense
of wonder...he needs
the companionship of
at least one adult who
can share it..."*

Rachel Carson

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
NATURE PRESERVES AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**PARK AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

To enrich the lives of our children through the stewardship of the county's natural resources and the efficient and responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities, experiences and partnerships.

**NATURE PRESERVES & NATURAL
RESOURCES DIVISION
MISSION STATEMENT**

To protect the region's biodiversity and natural heritage for its inherent value and for the benefit of future generations by promoting open space preservation, conserving natural communities, and fostering awareness and stewardship through environmental education and outdoor recreation.

LATTA PLANTATION NATURE CENTER

6211 Sample Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
704-875-1391 voice
704-875-1394 fax

MCDOWELL NATURE CENTER

15222 York Road
Charlotte, NC 28278
704-588-5224 voice
704-588-5226 fax

REEDY CREEK NATURE CENTER

2900 Rocky River Road
Charlotte, NC 28215
704-598-8857 voice
704-599-1770 fax

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon. - Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Spring Nature Almanac

By Kevin Metcalf, Northwest Nature Preserve District Manager

While hints of Spring creep in during the month of February, here in the Charlotte region the season really blossoms in March and April, with each week bringing new wonders.

March

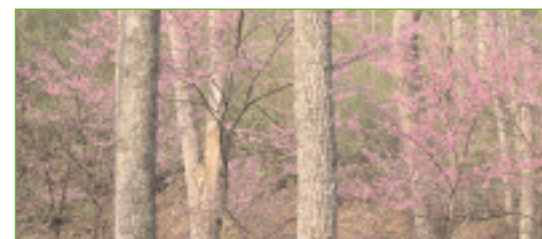
The onset of spring is subtle in the first week of March. The small, wind-pollinated flowers of the Red Maple add a hint of color to the landscape, while small green leaflets will start to emerge on low shrubs. A cold snap will bring birds to feeders in abundance, including White-throated Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Fox Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. Carolina Wrens or Pine Warblers might also give you a visit, especially if suet cakes or peanut butter mixed with corn meal are offered.



One of the first wildflowers to bloom in area woodlands is the **Hepatica**. This member of the buttercup family has white to pale lavender flowers, a fuzzy stem, and leaves with three lobes. The leaves resemble the three lobes of the liver, giving the plant its alternate name, liverwort. Hepatica is usually found on slopes in rich woods around the 10 - 25th of March.

By mid-month flowering trees and shrubs start to

show off. In addition to ornamental species like cherries and pears, look for the white blossoms of the native **Chickasaw Plum**, which sometimes forms low thickets along woodland edges and roadsides.



Late March brings out one of the showiest of our native flowering small trees - the **Eastern Redbud**. The pink sprays of flowers are visited by small flies, bumblebees and occasionally butterflies. Peak blooming is typically around the 25 - 30th of March in the Charlotte area.

April

During the first week of April, many species of birds that have spent the winter further south are beginning to return. Look for arriving Green Herons, Chimney



Swifts, **Barn Swallows**, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Common Yellowthroats. Some birds are starting to lay eggs at this time, including Northern Mockingbirds and Eastern Phoebe.

Early to mid April is the peak of diversity for woodland wildflowers. Walk a nature preserve trail



and look for ephemeral beauties such as Foamflower, Heartleaf Ginger, Green-and-Gold, Mayapple, Bluet, and Catesby's Trillium. **Flowering Dogwoods** bloom when the Eastern Redbud flowers begin to wane, around the 10 - 15th of April.

By late April many woodland wildflowers are already gone, as the trees of the canopy leaf out and begin to shade the forest floor. Young, developing leaves provide food for leaf-eating insects. One of these is the **Spring Cankerworm**, a caterpillar that feeds voraciously on the leaves of oaks and some elms. Often, these caterpillars will "bungee-jump" on a nearly invisible silken thread when startled, and seem to "float" or hang magically in the air over trails in the forest.



May

By early May the landscape begins to look green and summer-like. Many of the flowering trees and shrubs have dropped their petals. Butterflies and other insects are out in force.

Early May is also the time for fledgling baby birds - leaving the nest for the first time. Species with young this time of year include Tufted Titmice and **Carolina Chickadees**. These young birds will soon learn to feed on the abundant, leaf-eating caterpillars



and other insects, thus doing their small part in helping reduce insect populations.

It may be no coincidence that as young birds, mice and other small prey become available, predators such as snakes become most active. The month of May is a good time to observe Eastern or "Black" Rat Snakes, Black Racers, Eastern Kingsnakes, **Mole Kingsnakes** and even Copperheads. They too have a role in passing energy along the food chain, and must in turn take care not to become a meal for a hungry owl or hawk.



Throughout May you might hear the trilling calls of the **Cope's Gray Treefrog** and the clicking calls of the Cricket frog. Male frogs call to establish a territory and advertise for a female. Soon the females will be laying their eggs in small ponds or temporary pools. As the calendar flips to June, Bullfrogs will also start to call from pond-side vegetation - signaling that Summer is truly here.

Special Events

APRIL 19 - 23 IS
TURN OFF THE TV
WEEK PROGRAMS



See pages 14 & 18 for details.

March Programs

Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391.

Series

Pre-K Gardener Series

9873 Thursdays, March 18, April 15, May 20

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • \$6/series

During this series we will be exploring the native plant garden and learning the important elements plants need to survive. We will be exploring the garden through hands on exploration.

Mar 4 - Native Plants

Apr 1 - Plants that Invade

May 6 - Flowers, Flowers Everywhere

Homeschool Gardener Series

9874 Thursdays, March 4, April 1, May 6

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$9/series

During this series we will be exploring the native plant garden and learning the important elements plants need to survive. We will be exploring the garden through hands on exploration.

Mar 4 - Native Plants

Apr 1 - Green Invaders

May 6 - Bountiful Flowers

Yoga at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

Saturdays, March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$12/class or \$50/series

Samantha Noto will present this five-week series focusing on the elements of our world. Kids 5 and older are offered a free nature program during the class. The only requirement is a flexible mind! For more information or to register for Yoga please call 704.875.1391.

Tai Chi for Health

Fridays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$12/class or \$60/series

Tai Chi uses agile steps and gentle, flowing, circular movements for a fitness exercise and a “moving meditation.” This form stretches and strengthens the body improving balance, flexibility and overall energy and health. For more information or to register for Tai Chi please call 704.875.1391.

Tai Chi for Health

Fridays, April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$12/class or \$60/series

Tai Chi uses agile steps and gentle, flowing, circular movements for a fitness exercise and a “moving meditation.” This form stretches and strengthens the body improving balance, flexibility and overall energy and health. For more information or to register for Tai Chi please call 704.875.1391.

Pre-K Garden Club

7008 Tuesday, March 2

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering and weeding. Registration is required.

Junior Garden Club

7029 Tuesday, March 2

2:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 14 • FREE

Come out and let your child help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering and weeding. Registration is required.

Adult Garden Club

7054 Tuesday, March 2

4:30 - 6 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • FREE

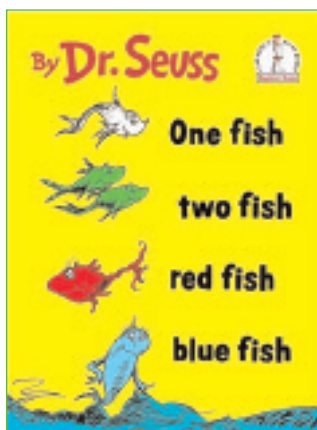
Come out and help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering, transplanting, weeding and pruning. Registration is required.

Fishing with Dr. Seuss

6517 Wednesday, March 3

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 and older with adult • \$2/child

Hear Dr. Seuss' classic story, One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, and learn about the fish in our lakes and ponds. Kids will also learn how to cast with a fun fishing game!

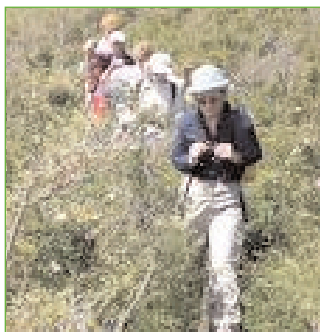


First Fridays Senior Hiking Club

Latta Plantation Nature Center Parking Lot

6939 Friday, March 5

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 50 and up • FREE



Active seniors find a different way to study nature as they explore the amazing trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve with friends old and new. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own. Terrain and distance moderate, approx. 1.5-3 miles

Walk with a Naturalist: Exploring the Hill Trail

6558 Saturday, March 6

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Are you interested in the natural world around you? Join us on these Saturday excursions that will focus on observing, exploring and appreciating the world around us. No registration required.

Camping Essentials: Camp Cooking

6829 Saturday, March 6

11 a.m. - noon • All ages • FREE

Going camping but never know how or what to cook? Come join us at Latta Plantation Nature Center and learn how to build a proper camp kitchen, including designing a menu and preparing easy, nutritious and tasty meals.

Mammal Tales: The Deer

6908 Sunday, March 7

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 - 12 • \$3/child

Come out and discover the world of deer. You will learn what they look like, how they feel, and so much more.

Tour the Night Sky

6776 Thursday, March 11

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. • All Ages • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Join us for a guided tour of the night sky! Starting indoors, we will explore the constellations and their stories using a star projector. Then, weather permitting; we will venture outside to experience the stars firsthand.

Introduction to Disc Golf

6996 Saturday, March 13

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5

Come join us at Latta Plantation Nature Center and learn the basics of the popular sport of Disc Golf. All equipment is provided. Call for details.

Leprechauns and Rainbows

9892 Saturday, March 13

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 with adult • \$2/child

Is there really a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Get ready for St. Patrick's Day with a story about leprechauns and a fun lesson about rainbows. Includes craft.



Latta Homeschoolers: Astronomical Wonders

10490 Wednesday, March 17

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

The stars tell interesting stories all year long! Join us for an indoor astronomy lesson as we learn the layout of the night sky with some help from a star projector.

Third Fridays Mothers Morning Hiking Club

Latta Plantation Nature Center Parking Lot

6964 Friday, March 18

9 - 11 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Come and enjoy guided, brisk hikes through Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, exploring some of the 16 miles of hiking trails. Bring a friend for a fun way to learn some of the history and facts about Latta Plantation Nature preserve, and get a good walking workout at the same time. Terrain & Distance moderate, approx. 1.5-3 miles

Nature Nook: Box Turtle at Long Pond

9875 Saturday, March 20

1 - 2 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 with adult • \$2/child

Listen to the story, make a craft and learn all about turtles in this monthly offering.



Pollution Solution

9893 Sunday, March 21

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 - 12 • \$3/child

What can you do to take better care of the earth so it takes better care of you? Learn about the sources of pollution and how to minimize the impact.

Amphibian Night Hike

Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge

10392 Friday, March 26

7 - 8:30 p.m. • All ages • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Just step outside and you will hear the frogs singing. Join us as we explore a wetland area and learn to identify the frogs by their calls.

Holly Bend Open House

Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge

9866 Saturday, March 27

9 a.m. - noon • All Ages • FREE

Come explore our newest treasure, the historic Holly Bend House. Built between 1795 and 1800 by Robert Davidson, it is located at

3701 Neck Road, Huntersville, just past Rural Hill. Follow a self-guided tour on the historical and architectural significance of the house and surrounding property.

BSA: Backpacking Merit Badge

March 27, 28, April 5 - 9

9889 Ages 14 and older • \$330/scout

Are you looking for an Adventure? Come join us as one of our Latta Plantation Nature Center staff takes you on a five day, 30 mile backpacking trip on the famed Appalachian Trail. All equipment is provided. Call for details.



Nature Journaling

6533 Sunday, March 28

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 8 and older • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Capture nature through a journal. If you like the idea, but don't know how to get started, then join us for this one and a half hour introductory course.

Moonlight Kayak Tour

Public Horse Trailer Parking lot

9336 Monday, March 29

9 - 11 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$11/adult

Join us to learn the fundamentals of flat-water kayaking as we enjoy watching the sunset while paddling around Mountain Island Lake. Flat water, 3-4 miles

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

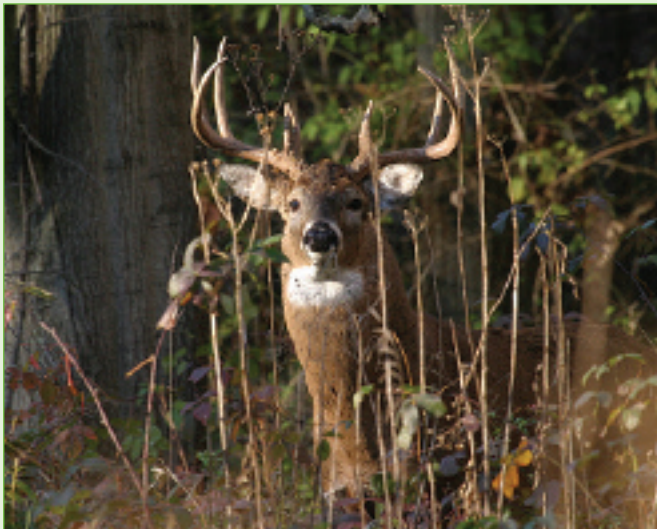
McDowell Nature Preserve Photo Contest

Submission Deadline: March 1 - July 31

Photo Exhibit: September 1 through 30

All Ages • FREE

Enjoy taking pictures? Participate in our nature preserve photography contest. The theme is "McDowell Nature Preserve is a special place." The entries can include people enjoying McDowell Nature preserve, wildlife, or landscapes. Complete rules available upon registration



Trail Run

9967 Tuesday, March 2

9968 Tuesday, March 16

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Come start your day by running the trails of the preserve. From the call of the Mourning Dove to the crisp spring air, put a little nature in your morning routine.

Fitness Fridays

6736 Friday, March 5

6740 Friday, March 19

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Commit to a healthy lifestyle and join us bi-monthly for an aerobic based hike through the nature preserve. Each week we will enjoy different views of the preserve while focusing on staying fit!

McDowell Trail Hike Series: Trees of McDowell

9489 Saturday, March 6

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely themed hike with the family. Each hike will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.

Eco-friendly Landscaping

9924 Saturday, March 6

1 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Come learn from the professionals about the latest trends and best ways to make your yard and garden environmentally and aesthetically pleasing.



Babes in the Woods

4 Seasons trail entrance

6977 Monday, March 8

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • 18 months - 3 years • FREE

Take your baby on a journey to discover all the good things about nature! Learn how to spark the sense of wonder in your little one. June through July we will get our feet wet in the creek, so dress appropriately.

Home School Special: Animal Adaptations

6806 Thursday, March 11

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7- 12 • \$3

All animals are individually adapted for the area in which they live. Learn some unique adaptations allowing critters to live in our unique habitats.

Sounds of the Night

6788 Thursday, March 11

6791 Thursday, March 25

6 - 7:30 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Dusk is the perfect time to see almost every animal in the preserve. Hike McDowell and listen to the calls of many frogs and hopefully coyotes. We will be hiking so wear proper shoes. We will be hiking 1.5 miles over moderate terrain

Animal Tales: Stinky Skunks!

6811 Friday, March 12

10 - 10:45 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Join us with your preschooler as we read a fabulous animal tale and then enjoy crafts and activities related to each month's theme.



Second Saturdays Service Project

9917 Saturday, March 13

8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Join us the second Saturday of every month and help us maintain the trail system in McDowell Nature Preserve. Projects are moderately strenuous in nature and the ability to hike uneven terrain and lift 25 lbs is recommended. Groups are welcome.

Outdoor Cooking for Families

McDowell Campground

9496 Saturday, March 13

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$5

Join us as we learn some fun recipes for your next camping trip. During this class we will be using a Dutch oven, a box oven, pie irons, and camp stoves to cook with.

Nature Art

9499 Saturday, March 13

3 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5/family

During this class we will discover how we can find art in nature. Join us as we take a hike through the woods, collect items from nature and turn them into art. We will print our pictures and make natural frames for them. Please bring your camera.

Spider Hunting

9985 Monday, March 15

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 6 - 12 • FREE

There are spiders galore at McDowell on National Spider Day. We will be searching the preserve for any and every spider there is, so come hike with us and figure out who's who.



P.L.A.N.T. Composting Demonstration

6577 Wednesday, March 17

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

P.L.A.N.T. is an acronym for Piedmont Landscape and Naturescape training. As a part of P.L.A.N.T. the county will be instructing how to create and maintain a compost bin.

Backyard Birding

9926 Wednesday, March 17

6 - 8 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Learn the things you need to make a backyard bird haven from feeders to baths. Presented by Marion L. Davenport, owner of Chirp and Chatter Backyard Nature Store in Fort Mill, SC.

Backyard Gardening Series: Bird and Butterfly Gardening

9927 Thursday, March 18

6 - 8 p.m. • Ages 14 and older • FREE

Learn about gardening with Master Gardener Carol Carraux. She will be discussing what the necessities are to make your garden a bird and butterfly sanctuary.



Seasonal Photography

8788 Saturday, March 20

7:30 - 9 a.m. • Ages 12 -15 • FREE

Learn to use photography to express your unique view of the world and capture the beauty of the changing seasons in this introductory class. We will explore composition and different photography techniques.

Nature Photo Adventure

9511 Saturday, March 20

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$5/family

Join us as we explore McDowell Nature Preserve for snapshots of nature. We will print our pictures and make natural frames for them. Please bring your own camera.

Urban Gardening

9514 Saturday, March 20

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$3

During this class we will create an urban garden for your family to enjoy. We will have a variety of recycled containers to decorate and plant seeds in.

Terrific Twos: Fabulous Frogs

6872 Monday, March 22

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Age 2 • \$3

Discover nature with your little one through crafts and activities related to the theme.

Saturn Sightings

10094 Monday, March 22

8 - 10 p.m. • All ages • \$3

With Saturn at its closest approach to earth, it's a great night to come and catch a glimpse of the ringed planet. We will also tell stories about the stars and planets. We will be outside so bring something to sit on.

Home School Special: Animal Dissections

10011 Thursday, Mar 25, April 1, April 8, and April 15

2 p.m.- 3p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$25 (covers all classes and dissection materials)

What better way is there to learn about animal anatomy besides seeing it first hand? Have a chance to peer inside a different critter each session including a mussel, sponge, sea star, and a fish!

Cache In/Trash Out

6825 Saturday, March 27

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

Join us as we use GPS units to trek through the preserve and pick up litter. This is an environmentally friendly twist on the sport of geocaching (a high tech treasure hunt). All supplies are provided.

Painted Pots and Petaled Pens

9518 Saturday, March 27

3 - 4 p.m. • All Ages • \$3

Disguise your pens in this flower craft! Give it as a gift or keep it for yourself. Either way, have fun completing this spring creation.

Egg Ed

8740 Wednesday, March 31

10 a.m. - Noon • Ages 6 - 8 • \$5

With the Easter Bunny on its way well be doing an egg hunt of our own. Learn about the eggs the local wildlife while taking a hike through the woods to find them.

Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857.

CREATURE FEATURE and Story Time

Reedy Creek Nature Preserve is home to some amazing critters! Discover a new and exciting creature each month through a story, activity and/or craft!

Ages 3 and older with adult, \$2/child

Bluebirds

9184 Wednesday, March 3 • 10 - 11 a.m.

9185 Sunday, March 7 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Turtles

9186 Wednesday, April 14 • 10 - 11 a.m.

9188 Sunday, April 18 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Beavers

9190 Wednesday, May 5 • 10 - 11 a.m.

9191 Sunday, May 9 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Reedy Creek Nature Club

9402 Wednesday, March 17 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

9403 Wednesday, April 21 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

9404 Wednesday, May 19 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Ages 10 - 17 • FREE

Explore your surroundings with a naturalist in this exciting club! Discover what the natural world has to offer!

Adult Series

Hike for Your Health

Every Tuesday, 5:15 - 6 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • FREE

Get outside, get moving and get healthy! Fresh air, sunshine, beautiful surroundings and wonderful people are included! This is a medium to fast paced walk.

Yoga in the Preserve

Every Tuesday, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • \$8 per class or \$25/month

Relax with yoga as you take in the sights and sounds of nature! All levels and abilities are welcome! Call Reedy Creek Nature Center to register at 704.598.8857

Homeschool

Home School Hikers

9247 Wednesday, March 10 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

9248 Wednesday, March 24 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

9249 Wednesday, April 14 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

9250 Wednesday, April 28 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

9251 Wednesday, May 12 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

9252 Wednesday, May 26 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages 8 - 12 • \$2/hike

Go take a hike! We will hike all of Reedy Creek Nature Preserve and then some! We will cover the 10 miles of trails in just three months! Come see why Reedy Creek Nature Preserve is a special place!

Home school Series: Adopt-a-Forest

10378 Every second and fourth Tuesday

(March 9, 23, April 13, 27, May 11, 25)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$42/six week series

This promises to be an exciting and engaging series involving hands-on fieldwork within Reedy Creek Nature Preserve! We will measure trees, test soils, profile forest diversity, inventory plants and animals and more! Come ready to explore!

Home School Series: Nature's Playground

9257 Every second and fourth Tuesday

(March 9, 23, April 13, 27, May 11, 25)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 5 - 7 • \$42/session

Get outdoors! We will discover Mother Nature's playground through activities, crafts, and games.



Owl Prowl

10376 Friday, March 5

6 - 7:30 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$2

Enter the fascinating world of Owls! Discover the owls of Reedy Creek and venture onto the trails in search of these marvelous creatures!

Creating a Backyard Habitat

9509 Saturday, March 6

10 a.m. - noon • Ages 12 and older • \$5

Discover an oasis in your own backyard with this fun and informative workshop. Give back to nature and create a space you will want to come home to!

The Tale of a Box Turtle

7952 Saturday, March 6

2 - 3 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Box turtle 101...discover what makes this critter special as we journey through a year in the life of a box turtle! We will then meet our resident turtle and go for a stroll!

Spring Family Fun Hike

10387 Sunday, March 7

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Join us for a casual stroll through the preserve as we investigate the early signs of spring!

"Eggciting" Exploration

9208 Tuesday, March 9

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Become an "eggspert" by participating in this fun hands-on program. From chicken egg experiments to activities and games, all your "eggsasperating" questions about eggs and the creatures who lay them will be answered. We will also go on a hike to look for signs of egg-nesting animals.

Nature's Play

9218 Wednesday, March 10

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 0 to 5 • FREE

Bring the kids to play the natural way! While the kids play, meet others and find out the latest news on organic and natural parenting. Dress for weather. Adults must remain with children at all times.

The NC Birding Trail Hike Series: Uwharrie Group

Explore the North Carolina Birding Trail in search of a wide variety of birds and the unique habitats that support them. The Trail includes ideal locations to view more than 460 species and connects birders to local communities, businesses, and cultural attractions.

NC Zoological Park

10035 Saturday, March 13

8:30 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 12 and up • \$15

In addition to the beautiful and exotic birds in the R.J. Reynolds Forest Aviary, the NC Zoological Park offers opportunities to also discover some of North Carolina's wild, native bird species in the open spaces of this 1,500 acre complex. Fee includes transportation, binocular and field guide use as well as entrance to the NC Zoo.

Biodiversity Hike: Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

10377 Saturday, March 13

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Ages 12 and older • \$10

Journey to the endangered longleaf pine ecosystem as we discover the inhabitants and beautiful landscape that make this land so special. We will provide transportation, must be able to hike 5 -6 miles on uneven terrain. Bring bag lunch, plenty of water and comfortable hiking shoes.



A Reedy Creek Campfire

8057 Friday, March 19

6:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • \$3, children 3 and under free

Join us around the campfire as we roast marshmallows and tell stories.

Green Living: CPCC Center for Sustainability

10052 Saturday, March 20

10 - noon • Ages 16 and up • FREE

Albert Einstein once said, "The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." Come raise your level of thinking. CPCC's Center for Sustainability will help us find out how to start living and working in an environmentally friendly manner. It can be easy being green!

Green Guardian Conservation Corps

9543 Saturday, March 20

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 12 and up • FREE

All the cool kids are doing it! You know you want to! Become a green guardian! Your efforts will help protect the wildlife and wild places of Mecklenburg County Nature Preserves. Activities include invasive plant removal, plant and animal inventory, native gardening and other wild adventures. Come over to the wild side!

Wiggly Wonderful Worms

9215 Tuesday, March 23

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out! Find out why worms are wonderful in this hands-on, close encounter of the squirmy kind.

Happy Pecan Day!

8120 Thursday, March 25

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Celebrate Pecan Day. All day at the Nature Center we will serve pecan pie, coffee and hot chocolate. We will talk at the table about the natural history of Carolina's favorite nut! Reserve your piece of pie today! The event is free, however, donations are appreciated.

Fantastic Frog Fun

10379 Friday, March 26

RibbonWalk Nature Preserve

6 - 7 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

The frogs are calling! Join us as we discover the fantastic world of frogs! We will explore their habitat while listening to the amazing diversity of calls.

Fun in the Springtime Sun!

10367 Saturday, March 27

RibbonWalk Nature Preserve

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

The sun is shining, the green is glistening and there is a song in the air! Join us for bird hikes, insect investigations, nature art and more!

Aaron Newton: Green & Groovy

9552 Sunday, March 28

3 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 16 and over • \$5

Aaron Newton, co-author of *A Nation of Farmers*, to speak at Reedy Creek! Aaron is a participating farmer at the Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm in Concord, North Carolina. He helps operate Cold Water Creek Farms, a community supported agriculture program and is the co-founder of Groovy Green and Hen and Harvest. Aaron will be talking about the challenges of industrial agriculture. Come find out how these issues can be overcome with locally grown food. His books will be available to purchase.

Reedy Creek Garden Club Returns!

8123 Wednesday, March 31

1 - 4 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • FREE

Come out and help our naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Activities may include watering and transplanting, weeding, or deadheading. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are recommended. Dress for the weather.

April Programs

Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391.

First Friday's Senior Hiking Club

Latta Plantation Nature Center Parking Lot

6942 Friday, April 2

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 50 and up • FREE

Active seniors find a different way to study nature as they explore the amazing trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve with friends old and new. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own. Terrain and distance moderate, approx. 1.5-3 miles



Walk with a Naturalist: Basic Birding

6562 Saturday, April 3

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Are you interested in the natural world around you? Join us on these Saturday excursions that will focus on observing, exploring and appreciating the world around us. No registration required.

Camping Essentials: Backpacking

6823 Saturday, April 3

11 a.m. - Noon • All ages • FREE

Have you ever wanted to go backpacking but don't know where to start? Then come join us at Latta Plantation Nature Center as our outdoor recreation staff will share their knowledge in this show and tell session.

Girls in Science Spring Break Camp

9896 Tuesday - Thursday, April 6 - 8

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day • Ages 7 - 12 • \$90

A "No Boys Allowed" camp that takes girls out into nature and celebrates their interest in science. Discover a wetland, go fishing and even try your hand at science experiments. Call for more information.

Pre-K Garden Club

7009 Tuesday, April 6

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering and weeding. Registration is required.

Junior Garden Club

7033 Tuesday, April 6

2:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 14 • FREE

Come out and let your child help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering and weeding. Registration is required.

Adult Garden Club

7056 Tuesday, April 6

4:30 - 6 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • FREE

Come out and help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering, transplanting, weeding and pruning. Registration is required.

Sunset Segway Adventure Tour

9206 Thursday, April 8

9207 Thursday, April 22

6 - 9 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • \$35

Explore Latta Plantation Nature Preserve at sunset on a Segway! Learn to ride these self-balancing machines and see nature like never before! See the Shady and Catawba Trails, the Buzzard Rock Overlook and beautiful views of the sun set over Mountain Island Lake. Call for details and rider restrictions.



Mushroom Mania!

10395 Saturday, April 10

1 - 2 p.m. • All ages • \$3/child, \$4/adult

After a nice spring rain, mushrooms begin popping up everywhere! Search for these mysterious organisms on a hike and learn how to make spore prints.

Mammal Tales: The Fox

6910 Sunday, April 11

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 - 12 • \$3/child

Come out and discover the world of foxes. You will learn what they look like, how they feel, and so much more.



Digital Photo Scavenger Hunt

6484 Saturday, April 17

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. anytime • All ages • FREE

Come out to the nature preserve for a fun-filled adventure with your family. Bring your digital camera and sense of exploration and stop by the nature center anytime for a list of things to find.

Balcony Gardening

9969 Saturday, April 17

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • \$5

Apartment and town home dwellers despair no more! Learn how to transform any small outdoor area into a bountiful vegetable garden! We'll address topics such as container size, companion planting, and composting.

Latta Homeschoolers: Useful Herbs for Children

10491 Wednesday, April 21

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Hunt for herbs in our garden as we explore the useful properties of these plants. Make a mini-herbal and take home your own sachet!

TURN OFF THE TV WEEK PROGRAMS



Night Gardening

9863 Monday, April 19

6 - 7:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Explore our native wildlife garden at night and learn how to attract nocturnal animals to your garden. No registration required.

Free Family Fishing

Picnic Area Fishing Pier

9864 Tuesday, April 20

6 - 8p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Bring the whole family out for an evening of fishing and fun. Fishing gear and bait will be provided. Children 15 and under do not need a NC fishing license. No registration required.

Family Night Hike

Picnic Area Shelter #2

9865 Wednesday, April 21

6 - 7:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Bring your family and experience Latta Plantation Nature Preserve at night. Play games, listen to stories, and learn how wildlife hear, see, and feel to get around in the dark. No registration required.

Fairy House Building

Picnic Area Shelter #2

9867 Thursday, April 22

6 - 7:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Come build a fairy house during Turn Off the TV Week. No registration required.

Radical Reptiles

9871 Friday, April 23

6 - 7 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Turtles, snakes, and lizards, oh my! Meet the reptiles that call Mecklenburg County home and learn about the things that make them very unique as well as misunderstood.

Third Fridays Mothers Morning Hiking Club

Latta Plantation Nature Center Parking Lot

6965 Friday, April 22

9 - 11 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Come and enjoy guided, brisk hikes through Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, exploring some of the 16 miles of hiking trails. Bring a friend for a fun way to learn some of the history and facts about Latta Plantation Nature preserve, and get a good walking workout at the same time. Terrain & Distance moderate, approx. 1.5-3 miles



Wetlands Walk

Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge

10493 Saturday, April 24

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 6 and older • \$4/adult, \$3/child

Explore a seldom seen part of Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge as we go off the path and journey into the wetlands! We will catch frogs, salamanders and a variety of macro-invertebrates.

Nature Nook: "Fairy Houses"

9880 Saturday, April 24

1 - 2 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 with adult • \$2/child

Listen to the story, make a craft and learn all about fairy houses in this monthly offering.



Introduction to Disc Golf

6999 Saturday, April 24

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5

Come join us at Latta Plantation Nature Center and learn the basics of the popular sport of Disc Golf. All equipment is provided. Call for details.

Fantastic Fish

Picnic Area Parking Lot

9894 Sunday, April 25

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 5 - 14 • \$3/child

This is a chance for you to learn more about fish and go fishing all in the same day. First we will talk about why fish are unique and then we will go fishing on Mountain Island Lake.

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Home School Series: Outdoor Cooking

9901 Thursday, April 1

9902 Thursday, April 15

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$5

Learn some fun recipes for your next camping trip. During this class we will be using a Dutch oven, a box oven, pie irons, and camp stoves to cook with.

Big Foot Tracking/Full Moon Hike

10032 Thursday, April 1

8 - 9:30 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • \$3

Let one of our naturalists guide you through the preserve by moonlight while tracking the legendary Beast rumored to roam the woods. It's bound to be a hairy night - maybe with a sighting.

Fitness Fridays

6755 Friday, April 2

6766 Friday, April 16

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Commit to a healthy lifestyle and join us bi-monthly for an aerobic based hike through the nature preserve. Each week we will enjoy different views of the preserve while focusing on staying fit!

McDowell Trail Hike Series: Lake Front Views

9490 Saturday, April 3

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely themed hike with the family. Each hike will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.

Leave No Trace

9522 Saturday, April 3

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5

Millions of people visit parks and nature preserves each year, sometimes having a negative effect on the surrounding environment. Come learn how you can minimize your own impact and "Leave No Trace."

Camping 101

McDowell Campground

6720 Saturday, April 3

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$5/family

Learn the basics of camping. We will learn the essentials of packing, setting up a campsite, and building a campfire.

Babes in the Woods

4 Seasons trail entrance

6983 Monday, April 5

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • 18 months - 3 years • FREE

Take your baby on a journey to discover all the good things about nature! Learn how to spark the sense of wonder in your little one. June through July we will get our feet wet in the creek so dress appropriately.

Home School Series: Orienteering

9903 Thursday, April 8

9904 Thursday, April 22

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$3

During this class we will learn the basic essentials of using a map and compass. We will learn what a topographical map is, how to read the map, and how to get from one location to another within the preserve.

Family Nature Club Series: Take a Camera for a Hike

9961 Friday, April 9

6 - 8 p.m. • All ages • FREE

Bring your digital camera for an adventure through the woods taking pictures on the way. Once we return we will all share the story of our adventure with group and make picture frames from nature.

Second Saturdays Service Project

9918 Saturday, April 10

8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Join us the second Saturday of every month and help us maintain the trail system in McDowell Nature Preserve. Projects are moderately strenuous in nature and the ability to hike uneven terrain and lift 25 lbs is recommended. Groups are welcome.

P.L.A.N.T. Composting Demonstration

6713 Saturday, April 10

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

P.L.A.N.T. is an acronym for Piedmont Landscape and Naturescape training. As a part of P.L.A.N.T. the county will be instructing how to create and maintain a compost bin.

Outdoor Cooking for Families

McDowell Campground

9497 Saturday, April 10

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$5

Join us as we learn some fun recipes for your next camping trip. During this class we will be using a Dutch oven, a box oven, pie irons, and camp stoves to cook with.

Nature Art

9500 Saturday, April 10

3 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5/family

Ages 12 and older, \$5/family

During this class we will discover how we can find art in nature. Join us as we take a hike through the woods, collect items from nature and turn them into art. We will print our pictures and make natural frames for them. Please bring your camera.

Week of the Young Child April 12 – 16

Nature Adventure Story Time

April 12 through April 16

Monday - Friday, 1 - 1:15 p.m.

Ages up 5 FREE

Stop by the nature center on your daily adventure for a quick, nature related story - then stick around and view the many animals and exhibits in McDowell Nature Center!

Terrific Twos: Bouncing' Bunnies

6888 Monday, April 12

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Age 2 • \$3

Discover nature with your little one through crafts and activities related to the theme.

Little Explorers

10023 Tuesday, April 13

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • FREE

Bring out your little one for an adventure on the trails of McDowell. Look for bugs, birds, and critters of all types and sizes!

Mini-Monet

10024 Wednesday, April 14

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Bring your little one out for an hour of crafty fun!

Bodacious Beavers

8744 Wednesday, April 15

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 4 - 6 • \$3

Let the little ones learn about the busy builder of the natural

world. From story time to the craft, were bound to learn something about this bodacious mammal.

Animal Tales: Flowering Fun

6819 Friday, April 16

10 - 10:45 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Join us with your preschooler as we read a fabulous animal tale and then enjoy crafts and activities related to each month's theme.

Backyard Gardening Series: Container Gardening

9928 Thursday, April 15

6 - 8 p.m. • Ages 14 and older • FREE

Learn about gardening with Master Gardener Carol Carraux. Learn from a pro about the ins and outs of the use of containers in your naturescape.



McDowell Trail Hike Series: Wild Flowers

9491 Saturday, April 17

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely, themed hike with the family. Each hike will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.

Discovering Dinosaurs of the Carolinas

8787 Saturday, April 17

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 6 - 10 • \$3

Are your kids curious about paleontology? Want to know who ruled the Piedmont before people got here? Just like to dig? Come discover the ancient history of the Carolinas while digging in the dirt!

TURN OFF THE TV WEEK PROGRAMS



Doggy Day Hike

9925 Monday, April 19

10 - 11 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Stretch all fours and roam the trails, maybe make it a doggy day date. There are plenty of trees to mark. All humans must be on leashes and don't forget a doggy bag!

Family Nature BINGO

9970 Tuesday, April 20

6 - 7 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Turn off the T.V. and bring you family for a fun night of Nature Bingo! As always, a prize will be given to our winners! Yes – Go Ahead and list these under Turn off the TV Week

Tree ID Hike

9971 Tuesday, April 20, 10 - 11 a.m.

9972 Tuesday, April 20, 1 - 2 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Hike the trails of the preserve and on the way we'll figure out what tree is what. If we're lucky we might even find something to eat.

Sunset Family Hayride

9974 Wednesday, April 21

6 - 8 p.m. • All Ages •

\$5, 3 and under are free

Turn off the T.V. and join us for an evening of adventure as we embark on a scenic hayride around the preserve!

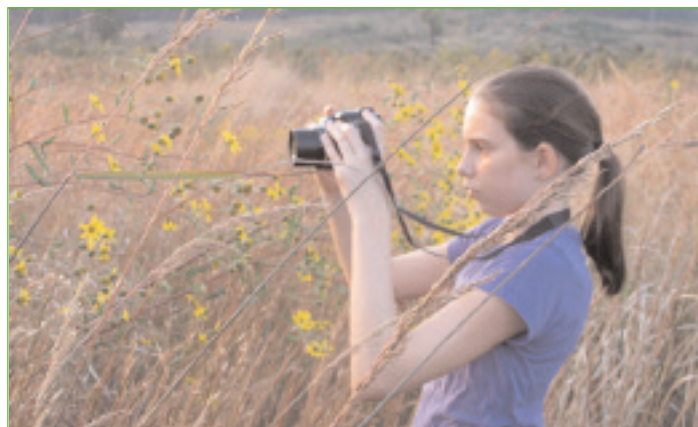


Breakfast with the Birds

9975 Friday, April 23

8:30 - 10 a.m. • All ages • \$5

After we enjoy a quick bite to eat we will be on a hunt in the preserve for the many species of bird that live there. We're bound to see some beautiful migrant visitors.



Seasonal Photography

8789 Saturday, April 17

6:30 - 8 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • FREE

Learn to use photography to express your unique view of the world and capture the beauty of the changing seasons in this introductory class. We will explore composition and different photography techniques.

Home School Special: Prairie Life

9906 Thursday, April 22

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

The prairie makes a unique and special habitat that is fun for all to see. Discover what critters live out in the grasslands and learn some of our native plants found there.

Paddle & Picnic

McDowell Waterfront

6632 Saturday, April 24

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$11

Join us for this relaxing family outing. During this tour we will learn the basics of flat water canoeing while exploring the coves of McDowell Nature Preserve. Pack a picnic and enjoy an afternoon on the lake with us.

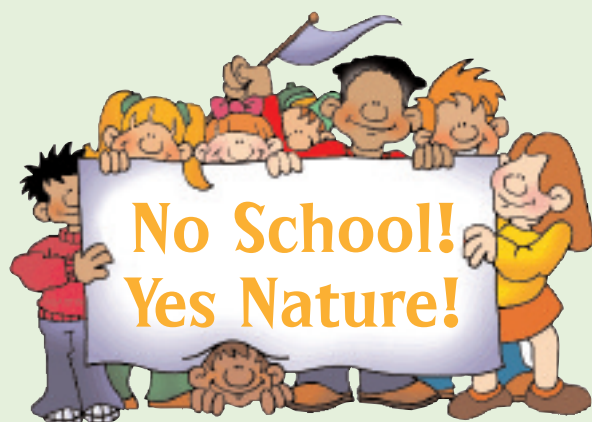
Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857.



Make a Plant Press

9301 Monday, April 5

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$3

Come spend some time on your school-free day with us at the Reedy Creek Nature Center! We will make a plant press and see how scientists use them to understand plants.

Colors in a Leaf

9398 Tuesday, April 6

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$3

Come spend some time on your school-free day with us at the Reedy Creek Nature Center! Even green leaves have more colors than you may think! See how many colors are in a leaf.

Wiggly Workers

9400 Wednesday, April 7

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$3

Come spend some time on your school-free day with us at the Reedy Creek Nature Center! Earthworms have been called “a gardener’s best friend.” Find out why!

Making Tracks

9401 Thursday, April 8

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$3

Come spend some time on your school-free day with us at the Reedy Creek Nature Center! Earthworms have been called “a gardener’s best friend.” Find out why!

Spring Ephemerals

10380 Saturday, April 3

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5

Join us on an exploration in search of spring flowers in and around Mecklenburg County! We will tour several sites by van, stopping for lunch in the wild!

Nature’s Play

9221 Tuesday, April 7

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 5 and under • FREE

Bring the kids to play the natural way! While the kids play, meet others and find out the latest news on organic and natural parenting. Dress for weather. Adults must remain with children at all times.



Organic Creation Cooking Class

9583 Saturday, April 10

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 12 and up • \$15

Embrace the art of healthy cooking! Gourmet Chef Silje Grayston will show you how to use fresh, local, and organic ingredients in your everyday meals! Fee includes instruction and food sampling.

Green Guardian Conservation Corps

9544 Saturday, April 10

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 16 and up • FREE

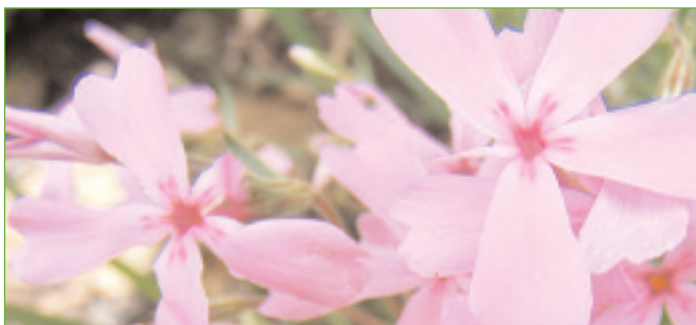
All the cool kids are doing it! You know you want to! Become a green guardian! Your efforts will help protect the wildlife and wild places of Mecklenburg County Nature Preserves. Activities include invasive plant removal, plant and animal inventory, native gardening, and other wild adventures. Come over to the wild side!

Breakfast with the Birds

8182 Saturday, April 17

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 8 and older, \$3/adult \$2/child

Join us for an exciting morning with our feathered friends! Enjoy a continental breakfast and brief presentation before heading onto the preserve! No experience needed!



Wildflower Walk

10398 Saturday, April 17

1 - 2:30 p.m. • All ages • FREE

10399 Sunday, April 18

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • All ages • FREE

Enjoy the rich and brilliant colors of spring on this leisurely walk through the forest! Discover the diversity of flowers, their uses and even some folklore!

Nature Art

10381 Saturday, April 17

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • All ages • FREE

The beauty of nature will come alive as you create your own masterpiece using only natural materials!

Home School Special: Organic Cooking Creations

9281 Wednesday, April 21

1:30 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$15 for 1 child & parent / \$5 per additional child

All children who are able to walk and hold a wooden spoon can join us in this children friendly and enthusiastically creative cooking class. Kids, come get excited about cooking and find out why you should, "Eat your broccoli!" Parents, cooking regularly with your child will not only teach them how to cook, but will also strengthen your relationship with your son or daughter.

Celebrate Earth Day

10368 Thursday, April 22

3 - 4:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Join Reedy Creek Nature Center Staff for an Earth Day bash! We will take a hike, enjoy some natural refreshments and plant a native tree



Land of Waterfalls Tour and Camping

10472 Friday, April 23, 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 25, 2 p.m.

Pre-trip meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wed. April 21st is mandatory

Ages 12 and older • \$100

Tour the land of waterfalls by hiking around various locations in Brevard and Transylvania counties. This is a weekend trip that includes camping by the stars, hiking, water activities and more. Space is limited! Transportation, food, camping fees, tents and all activities are included.

Wildflower Walk

10038 Sunday, April 25

2 - 4 p.m. • Ages 16 and up • FREE

Join a naturalist and the Native Plant Society as we take a Sunday stroll through the nature preserve enjoying the wonderful wild flowers of the spring. Sign up to be sure not to miss these beauties. They won't be around for long!

Full Moon Hike at RibbonWalk Nature Preserve

10382 Wednesday, April 28

6:30 - 8 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • FREE

Wander through the preserve by the light of the moon! Explore all things nocturnal!

Arbor Day Celebration

10369 Friday, April 30

2 - 4 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Trees make a world of difference! Celebrate trees with activities and games and help us plant a tree at the nature preserve!

A Reedy Creek Campfire

8337 Friday, April 30

6:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • \$3, children 3 and under free

Join us around the campfire as we roast marshmallows and tell stories.

May Programs

Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391.

Family Kayaking on Mountain Island Lake

Public Horse Trailer parking lot

9316 Saturday, May 1 • 10 a.m. - noon

9319 Saturday May 15 • 10 a.m. - noon

Ages 5 and older • \$11/adult, \$8/child

Parents, want to bring the family out for some time on the lake? Bring the kids and enjoy flat water kayaking on Mountain Island Lake. All equipment provided. Please bring water and snacks.



Walk with a Naturalist: Exploring Cowan's Ford

6559 Saturday, May 1

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All ages • FREE

Are you interested in the natural world around you? Join us on these Saturday excursions that will focus on observing, exploring and appreciating the world around us. No registration required.



May Day Celebration

10373 Saturday, May 1

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • All ages • FREE

May Day happens on May 1st and is a celebration of all things Spring. Come out to the nature center for crafts and activities welcoming spring back!

Camping Essentials: Day Hike

6869 Saturday, May 1

11 a.m. - noon • All ages • FREE

Want to exercise but don't want to pay the price for an expensive gym membership? Come out to Latta Plantation Nature Center and learn the basics of day hiking, including day packs, snacks, and footwear.

Holly Bend Open House

Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge

9868 Sunday, May 2

9 a.m. - noon • All Ages • FREE

Come explore our newest treasure, the historic Holly Bend House. Built between 1795 and 1800 by Robert Davidson, it is located on Neck Road just past Rural Hill. A self-guided history tour will be provided.

Pre-K Garden Club

7010 Tuesday, May 4

1 - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 • FREE

Come out and let your little ones help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering and weeding. Registration is required.

Junior Garden Club

7036 Tuesday, May 4

2:30 - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 14 • FREE

Come out and let your child help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering and weeding. Registration is required.



Adult Garden Club

7057 Tuesday, May 4

4:30 - 6 p.m. • Ages 15 and older • FREE

Come out and help our Naturalist make the garden look beautiful. Some activities include watering, transplanting, weeding and pruning. Registration is required.

Sunset Segway Adventure Tour

9209 Thursday, May 6

9210 Thursday, May 20

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • \$35

Explore Latta Plantation Nature Preserve at sunset on a Segway! Learn to ride these self-balancing machines and see nature like never before! See the Shady and Catawba Trails, the Buzzard Rock Overlook and beautiful views of the sunset over Mountain Island Lake. Call for details and rider restrictions.

First Friday's Senior Hiking Club

Latta Plantation Nature Center Parking Lot

6944 Friday, May 7

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 50 and older • FREE

Active seniors find a different way to study nature as they explore the amazing trails of Latta Plantation Nature Preserve with friends old and new. Binoculars and field guides provided, or bring your own. Terrain and distance moderate, approx. 1.5 - 3 miles.



Busy Bees

6885 Saturday, May 8

10 - 11 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 with adult • \$2/child

Join us for an interactive lesson about honeybees! We'll learn how they make honey and what we can do to attract them to our garden. Includes a game and craft.

Kayaking Tour on Mountain Island Lake

9256 Saturday, May 8 • 9 - 11 a.m.

9259 Saturday, May 22 • 9 - 11 a.m.

9267 Saturday, May 22 • 1 - 3 p.m.

Private tours also available

Ages 12 and older • \$11/Adult, \$8/Youth

Join with us as we paddle on Mountain Island Lake. Learn the basics of flat water kayaking as we paddle along the shoreline and explore the lake. All equipment provided. Please bring water and snacks.

Introduction to Disc Golf

7001 Saturday, May 8

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$5

Come join us at Latta Plantation Nature Center and learn the basics of the popular sport of Disc Golf. All equipment is provided. Call for details.

Mammal Tales: The Coyote

6909 Sunday, May 9

2 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 - 12 • \$3/child

Come out and discover the world of coyotes. You will learn what they look like, how they feel, and so much more.



Senior Fun Walk

7073 Tuesday, May 11

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 55 and older • FREE

Seniors, looking for a great place for a morning walk? Join others at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve as you explore a different trail on each walk as a staff member guides you.

Latta Homeschoolers: Insect-a-Palooza!

10492 Wednesday, May 19

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

Insects are everywhere! Learn the different types and how to identify some of these creatures during an expedition.



Third Fridays Mothers Morning Hiking Club

Latta Plantation Nature Center Parking Lot

6966 Friday, May 20

9 - 11 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Come and enjoy guided, brisk hikes through Latta Plantation Nature Preserve, exploring some of the 16 miles of hiking trails. Bring a friend for a fun way to learn some of the history and facts about Latta Plantation Nature preserve, and get a good walking workout at the same time. Terrain & Distance moderate, approx. 1.5-3 miles

Nature Nook: Waiting for Wings

9881 Saturday, May 22

1 - 2 p.m. • Ages 3 - 6 with adult • \$2

Listen to the story, make a craft and learn all about butterflies in this monthly offering.

Senior Fun Walk

7074 Tuesday, May 25

9 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 55 and older • FREE

Seniors, looking for a great place for a morning walk? Join others at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve as you explore a different trail on each walk as a staff member guides you.

Moonlight Kayak Tour

Public Horse Trailer Parking lot

9338 Thursday, May 27 • 8 - 10 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • \$11/adult, \$8/child

Learn the fundamentals of flat-water kayaking as we enjoy watching the sunset and paddling around Mountain Island Lake. Flat-water, 3 - 4 miles.

Kayaking and Segway Adventure Day

Picnic Area Parking Lot

9350 Saturday, May 29 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ages 18 and older • \$60

Spend the day with us as we ride Segways on the trail and kayak on Mountain Island Lake. The Segway tour will be in the morning, followed by a catered lunch, with flat water kayaking in the afternoon. All equipment provided.

Birds in Flight

6800 Saturday, May 29 • 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages 10 and older • FREE

How do birds fly? Come learn about the amazing adaptations that allow our feathered friends to take flight! You will also learn how to identify some common birds in flight. Includes hike.

Seeds to Fruit

6550 Sunday, May 30 • 2 - 3 p.m.

Ages 5 - 12 • \$3/child

Where does that juicy apple come from? Join us in exploring flowering plants and find out which ones produce our favorite fruits and veggies!

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Segway Adventure Tour

Ages 18 and older • \$35

Discover Latta Plantation Nature Preserve on a Segway! These two-wheeled personal transporters are a fun way to see the nature of the Shady Trail, Catawba Trail, Buzzard Rock Trail, and beautiful views of Mountain Island Lake. Call for details and rider restrictions.

8637 Saturday, March 6 • 9 a.m. - noon

8640 Saturday, March 6 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8646 Sunday, March 7 • 9 a.m. - noon

8654 Sunday, March 7 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8663 Saturday, March 13 • 9 a.m. - noon

8676 Saturday, March 20 • 9 a.m. - noon

8681 Saturday, March 20 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8683 Sunday, March 20 • 9 a.m. - noon

8685 Sunday, March 21 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8686 Saturday, March 27 • 9 a.m. - noon

8687 Saturday, April 3 • 9 a.m. - noon

8688 Saturday, April • 3 - 6 p.m.

8689 Sunday, April 4 • 9 a.m. - noon

8690 Sunday, April 4 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8691 Saturday, April 10 • 9 a.m. - noon

8692 Saturday, April 17 • 9 a.m. - noon

8693 Saturday, April 17 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8694 Sunday, April 18 • 9 a.m. - noon

8695 Sunday, April 18 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8696 Saturday, April 24 • 9 a.m. - noon

8697 Saturday, May 1 • 9 a.m. - noon

8698 Saturday, May 1 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8699 Sunday, May 2 • 9 a.m. - noon

8700 Sunday, May 2 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8701 Saturday, May 8 • 9 a.m. - noon

8702 Saturday, May 15 • 9 a.m. - noon

8703 Saturday, May 15 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8704 Sunday, May 16 • 9 a.m. - noon

8705 Sunday, May 16 • 3 - 6 p.m.

8706 Saturday, May 22 • 9 a.m. - noon

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

McDowell Trail Hike Series: Woodland Ecology

9493 Saturday, May 1

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely, themed hike with the family. Each hike will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.

Babes in the Woods

4 Seasons trail entrance

6985 Monday, May 3,

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • 18 months - 3 years • FREE

Take your baby on a journey to discover all the good things about nature! Learn how to spark the sense of wonder in your little one. June through July we will get our feet wet in the creek so dress appropriately.

Sunset Kayak Tour

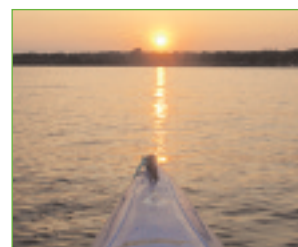
McDowell Waterfront

6497 Wednesday, May 5

6499 Wednesday, May 19

6 - 8:30 p.m. • Ages 10 and older • \$11

Join us for a relaxing kayak tour. During this class we will learn the basics of flat water kayaking while watching the sunset over Lake Wylie. We will also learn some of the history of the lake including Buster Boyd Bridge which connects North Carolina to South Carolina.



Fitness Fridays

6767 Friday, May 7

6770 Friday, May 21

9:30 - 11 a.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Commit to a healthy lifestyle and join us bi-monthly for an aerobic based hike through the nature preserve. Each week we will enjoy different views of the preserve while focusing on staying fit!

Nature Bike Ride

Four-mile Creek Greenway

9976 Friday, May 7

6 - 7:30 p.m. • Ages 6 and older • FREE

Tag along with a naturalist while we bike through the many natural wonders of the wetlands on the Four-Mile Creek Greenway. From Chorus and Tree Frogs to Great Blue Herons, we're bound to find something amazing.

Second Saturdays Service Project

9919 Saturday, May 8

8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Ages 16 and older • FREE

Join us the second Saturday of every month and help us maintain the trail system in McDowell Nature Preserve. Projects are moderately strenuous in nature and the ability to hike uneven terrain and lift 25 lbs is recommended. Groups are welcome.

P.L.A.N.T. Composting Demonstration

6719 Saturday, May 8

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • FREE

P.L.A.N.T. is an acronym for Piedmont Landscape and Naturescape training. As a part of P.L.A.N.T. the county will be instructing how to create and maintain a compost bin.

Paddle & Picnic

McDowell Waterfront

6810 Saturday, May 8

Noon - 2:30 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$11

Join us for this relaxing family outing. During this tour we will learn the basics of flat water canoeing while exploring the coves of McDowell Nature Preserve. Pack a picnic and enjoy an afternoon on the lake with us.



Home School Series: Flatwater Kayaking

McDowell Waterfront

10012 Thursday, May 13

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • \$11

10016 Thursday, May 13

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 10 - 12 • \$11

During this class we will learn the basics of flat water kayaking. Join us as we take a relaxing tour on Lake Wylie and observe the habitats the lake has to offer.

Home School Special: Macro Invertebrate Mayhem

9909 Thursday, May 13

2 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 7 - 12 • \$3

All creatures depend on clean water to survive. Determine the quality of McDowell stream water by jumping in with nets and collecting all the aquatic critters you can find!

Family Nature Club Series: aSTARnomy

9963 Friday, May 14

6 - 8 p.m. • All ages • FREE

We'll explore the stars on a new moon, see the constellations, listen to some folklore, and maybe catch a glimpse of some cool things in the cosmos.

Animal Tales: Bountiful Butterflies

6822 Friday, May 14

10 - 10:45 a.m. • Ages 3 - 5 • \$3

Join us with your preschooler as we read a fabulous animal tale and then enjoy crafts and activities related to each month's theme.

Prairie Hawk Watch

9981 Friday, May 14

9982 Friday, May 28

3 - 5 p.m. • All ages • FREE

The prairie is a great place to observe the hunting ability of these Magnificent Raptors. From Kestrels to Red-Tailed Hawks we will certainly get a chance to witness the habits of our local predators.

Astronomy & Kayaking: Lake Jocassee

10068 Saturday - Sunday, May 15 - May 16

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Ages 18 and older • \$35

Join us for a relaxing camping trip and kayak tour on Lake Jocassee. During this trip we will camp at Devil's Fork State Park and take the kayaks out on the lake after dark for a nice tour and astronomy lesson. We will learn a variety of skills over the weekend including campfire construction, outdoor cooking techniques and recipes, basic strokes, and water safety.

McDowell Trail Hike Series: Wild Flowers

9492 Saturday, May 15

10 - 11:30 a.m. • All Ages • FREE

Enjoy a leisurely themed hike with the family. Each hike will explore new areas of the nature preserve and uncover the secrets of the season.



Seasonal Photography

8790 Saturday, May 15

6:30 - 8 p.m. • Ages 12 - 15 • FREE

Learn to use photography to express your unique view of the world and capture the beauty of the changing seasons in this introductory class. We will explore composition and different photography techniques.

Terrific Twos: Bitty Butterflies

6892 Monday, May 17

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. • Age 2 • \$3

Discover nature with your little one through crafts and activities related to the theme.

Herptile Inventory

8862 Tuesday, May 18

8864 Tuesday, May 25

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 8 - 14 • \$5

Discover tadpoles, toads, salamanders, and snakes with a muddy, messy walk through the wetlands of McDowell. Bring a bathing suit and a change of cloths as we will be getting gross!

Backyard Gardening Series: Vegetable Gardening

9929 Thursday, May 20

6 - 8 p.m. • Ages 14 and older • FREE

Learn about gardening with Master Gardener Carol Carraux. Special consideration needs to be taken with vegetable plants around your home. Learn what needs to be done to give you the cream of the crop!

Urban Gardening

9515 Saturday, May 22

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$3

During this class we will create an urban garden for your family to enjoy. We will have a variety of recycled containers to decorate and plant seeds in.

Home School Family Field Day

Copperhead Island

9984 Thursday, May 27

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Ages 4 and older • \$8, 4 and under are free

Bring the whole family out for a fun filled day at the preserve! Enjoy a collection of fun activities including an egg toss, water balloons, geocaching, and hiking. A hotdog lunch will be served so just bring a towel and desire for fun!

City Birdbaths

9988 Saturday, May 29

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 5 and older • \$3

Join us for this fun family activity as we build a bird habitat for your urban landscape. Put your artistic talents together and create a natural looking plant container with a birdbath made out of recycled materials.

Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857.

International Migratory Bird Celebration!

10370 Saturday, May 1

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Help us celebrate the fantastic journey of these marvelous migratory birds! Activities for the whole family including bird hikes, crafts, games and more.

Beavers! at RibbonWalk Nature Preserve

10383 Friday, May 7

7 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Beavers are a fascinating and important critter in our ecosystem. Join us as we discover why and possibly get to see one of our resident beaver families!



International Migratory Bird Day Hikes and Spring Bird Count

10473 Saturday May 8, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ages 12 and older • FREE

We will be loading up the van and heading out to several county preserves to look for, identify and count migratory birds on this important day that celebrates their life! Binoculars and count sheets will be provided. Be a scientist for a day, no experience needed!

Uwharrie National Forest: Birkhead Wilderness Area

10040 Saturday, May 8

8:30 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 12 and up • \$10

Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Wood Thrush, Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak are species of interest at this site. Mixed hardwoods and former farmland allow for a mixed variety of birding opportunities. Fee includes transportation, binocular and field guide use.

Woodland Wildlife

8356 Sunday, May 9

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

An exciting discovery of the wildlife that lives in the woods awaits you! Live animal presentation and a small discovery hike are included!



Nature's Play

9222 Wednesday, May 12

10 - 11:30 a.m. • Ages 5 and under • FREE

Bring the kids to play the natural way! While the kids play, meet others and find out the latest news on organic and natural parenting. Dress for weather. Adults must remain with children at all times.

The NC Birding Trail Hike Series: Uwharrie Group

Join us as we explore the North Carolina Birding Trail in search of a wide variety of birds and the unique habitats that support them. The Trail includes ideal locations to view more than 460 species and connects birders to local communities, businesses, and cultural attractions.

Uwharrie National Forest: Denson's Creek Nature Trail

10046 Sunday, May 16

12 - 5 p.m. • Ages 12 and up • \$10

This nature trail offers a pleasant walk through a mixed hardwoods and pine forest. American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager and woodpeckers all make this their home. Hike is three miles. Participants should wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. Fee includes transportation, binocular and field guide use.

Yoga and Nature Retreat

10388 Departure on Friday, May 21 at Noon,
return Sunday May 23, 4 p.m.

Ages 18 and older • \$300 (payment plans available)

Pre-trip meeting on May 19 is mandatory for all participants.

Escape the city life and unwind in nature on this popular retreat! The beautiful mountains of North Carolina offer the perfect backdrop for a weekend of relaxation and rejuvenation! This wonderful retreat includes transportation, all food, yoga and meditation classes, guided hikes and more. Sign up now for the early bird special, \$275 to be paid in full by April 1.



Arbor Day Foundation Presents Using Your Outdoor Classroom

10428 Friday, May 21

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Ages 16 and up • \$65

Through fun and engaging hands-on experiences, you will gain techniques for using outdoor classrooms as an integral part of preschool and elementary children's daily learning. Discover how well-designed outdoor spaces facilitate children's overall development in traditional academic areas, strengthen specific skills, and aid social-emotional growth. Explore a variety of motivating strategies for facilitating and assessing student learning in outdoor classrooms, and reaching a variety of interests and needs. Lunch and materials will be included in this fee.

Arbor Day Foundation Presents Learning With Nature

10065 Saturday, May 22

9 - noon • Ages 18 and older \$10 / Ages 5 to 17 \$3

This interactive workshop emphasizes the need for children to have consistent time outdoors with an interested, caring adult. The group discusses some of the common barriers to preschool and elementary children's ability to create positive connections with the natural world and what parents and educators can do to counteract them. Discover engaging and practical hands-on ideas that can be infused throughout all areas of the curriculum to support the nature-child connection. This workshop will also provide a multitude of resource ideas to help you incorporate nature into both outdoor and indoor settings. Children will be involved in activities with our naturalist while adults are engaged in this exciting workshop. They will later join the caregivers in activities.

Green Living: CPCC Center for Sustainability

10058 Saturday, May 22

1 - 3 p.m. • Ages 16 and up • FREE

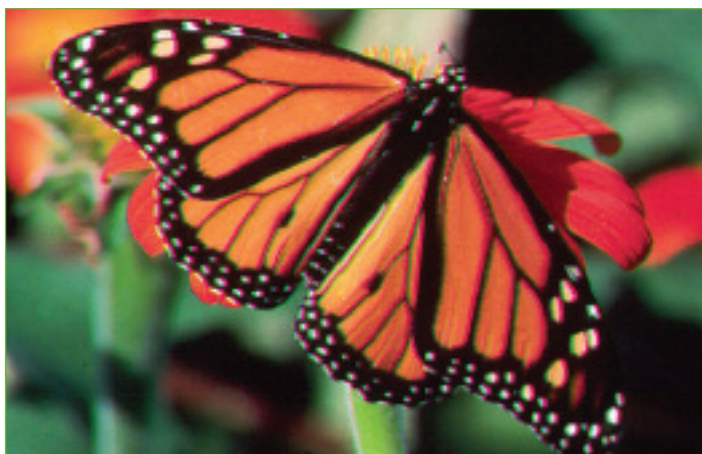
Albert Einstein once said, "The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." Come raise your level of thinking. CPCC's Center for Sustainability will help us find out how to start living and working in an environmentally friendly manner. It can be easy being green!

Aaron Newton: Green & Groovy

9555 Saturday, May 22

3:30 - 5 p.m. • Ages 12 and over • \$5

Aaron Newton, co-author of *A Nation of Farmers*, to speak at Reedy Creek! Aaron is a participating farmer at the Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm in Concord, North Carolina. He helps operate Cold Water Creek Farms, a community supported agriculture program and is the co-founder of Groovy Green and Hen and Harvest. Aaron will be talking about the challenges of industrial agriculture. Come find out how these issues can be overcome with locally grown food. His books will be available to purchase.



Nature Photography

8359 Wednesday, May 26

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. • All Ages • \$3

Bring your camera as we hike the nature preserve and capture all that is wild and wonderful on film. Find out the best angles and lighting to take some awesome outdoor pictures! A camera is required for this course.

Bats: Mammals on the Wing

9444 Friday, May 28

4:30 - 6 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$3

Go batty for bats! We will look into the lives of one of the most misunderstood animals. Find out why these feared critters are important in our ecosystems. Fee includes a batty snack and a craft.

A Reedy Creek Campfire

8360 Friday, May 28

6:30 - 8 p.m. • All Ages • \$3 per person / children 3 and under are free

Join us around the campfire as we roast marshmallows and tell stories.

Medicinal and Edible Plant Hike

10384 Saturday, May 29

9 - 11 a.m. • Ages 12 and older • \$3

Man has always had a deep connection with the land, depending on plants for medicinal healing and sustenance. Explore a variety of these plants on a casual hike through the preserve! Program includes handouts and a light sampling of a few of the plants.

Sensory Hike

10385 Saturday, May 29

1 - 2 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Discover the woods using your senses! This interactive hike through the trails of Reedy Creek is a great spring activity for the young and the young at heart!

A Tree, a Book and Me

10386 Saturday, May 29

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Join us for a reading of Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*. Weather permitting; we will enjoy this story under the trees in the fresh spring air. A short tree gratitude hike will follow.



Ode to Odonata

9645 Sunday, May 30

2 - 4:30 p.m. • All Ages • FREE

Come see the secretive dragons and damsels of Reedy Creek (dragonfly and damselflies that is). We will creep deep into the woodlands, along the small creeks and streams to document these seldom seen species and record some for the first time within the county. Every species plays a role in the environment and can help us to understand the health of an ecosystem. Dress to be off trail with closed-toed shoes.





Latta Plantation Nature Center

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville

704.875.1391

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Latta Plantation Nature Center at 704-875-1391.

Girls in Science Spring Break Camp

9896 Tuesday - Thursday, April 6 - 8

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day • Ages 7 - 12 • \$90

A "No Boys Allowed" camp that takes girls out into nature and celebrates their interest in science. Discover a wetland, go fishing and even try your hand at science experiments. Call for more information.

L.A.N.D. (Learning About Nature through Discovery) Camp: Cycling Through Nature

10027 June 21 - 25

10028 July 5 - 11

10029 July 12 - 16

9 a.m. - noon each day • Ages 4 - 6 • \$75

Join us for this weeklong, half-day camp where we will discover different cycles in nature, from life cycles to seasonal changes. Activities, crafts, games and FUN!

L.A.N.D. (Learning About Nature through Discovery) Camp: EcoFantasy

10030 July 26 - 30

10031 August 9 - 13

9 a.m. - noon each day • Ages 4 - 6 • \$75

Join us for this weeklong, half-day camp where we will encourage

your child's imagination to grow while making connections to real animals found in nature. Imagination, creativity and nature education work together in this fun new camp!

Outdoor Adventure Camp

10042 June 28 - July 2

10045 Jul 19 - 23

10047 August 2 - 6

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day • Ages 7 - 10 • \$150

Explore Latta Plantation Nature Preserve as you have never done before. Canoeing, fishing, wilderness survival, wild edibles and field games are just some of the fun activities we will enjoy during this weeklong day camp.

McDowell Nature Center

15222 York Road, Charlotte

704-588-5224

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. To ensure that you can participate, please register by calling 311 or 704-336-7600. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call McDowell Nature Center at 704-588-5224. You can also register on-line at www.parkandrec.com.

Insect Mania

9949 Monday - Friday, June 21 - June 25 9 a.m. - Noon

9948 Monday - Friday, June 21 - June 25 1 - 4 p.m.

9950 Monday - Friday, August 9 - August 13 9 a.m. - Noon

9951 Monday - Friday, August 9 - August 13 1 - 4 p.m.

Ages 4 - 6 • \$75

What has six legs, three body parts, and can be found just about everywhere you look? Insects! Bring your child out to discover



insects as we investigate different areas of the nature preserve including the forest, gardens, streams, and meadows. Each day will be packed full with fun activities, crafts, stories, and much more!



Outdoor Explorers Camp

9952 June 28 - July 2

9953 July 12 - July 16

9954 July 19 - July 23

9955 August 2 - August 6

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 9 • \$160

Interest in nature and outdoor recreation starts at an early age, help your child get a jump on discovering both as we explore the nature around them through kayaking, fishing, hiking and other outdoor recreation opportunities. As always animal encounters, crafts, games, and lots of fun are included.

Adventure Camp

9956 July 5 - July 9

9957 July 26 - July 30

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ages 10 - 12 • \$160

Discover water ecology while learning to kayak, become skilled at shelter building as you learn about animal homes, and explore the lives of nocturnal animals during an overnight camp-out. Interest in nature and outdoor recreation develops during youth, start them on a path filled with adventure today! (Camp ends at 10 a.m. on

Friday, July 10, following the overnight Campout)

Teen Backpacking: Pisgah National Forest

10022 Wednesday - Friday, July 28 - July 30

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Ages 14 - 17 • \$145

Spend a few days backpacking through Blueberry and Blackberry fields and sleeping by the river under the stars. The terrain will be moderate to strenuous with packs and a pre-trip meeting is required.

Kayak Camp

McDowell Waterfront

10017 July 28 - July 30

10018 August 18 - August 20

Wednesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ages 13 - 15 • \$95

Join us for this adventure-packed day camp, learning new flat water kayak skills each day. We will start with the basics including the parts of the boats, safety while kayaking, and the proper strokes. We will also cover rescues and trip preparation as well as take a day tour on Lake Wylie.

Reedy Creek Nature Center

2900 Rocky River Rd. Charlotte NC

704.598.8857

Open Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun 1 - 5 p.m.

Note: Many programs require registration and have limited space available. All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. For more information call Reedy Creek Nature Center at 704-598-8857.

Spring Discovery Camp

9313 Monday, April 5 - Friday, April 9

Monday - **9335**; Tuesday - **9332**; Wednesday - **9334**

Thursday - **9337**; Friday - **9339**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 8 - 12 • \$25/day or \$100 for entire week

Discover the magic that nature has to offer! From outdoor adventure to animals to splashing around in the creeks, everyday offers something different! Drop in for 1 day or all week!

Adventure Camp

9445 Monday, June 21 - Friday, June 25

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 9 • \$150

9451 Monday, August 2 - Friday, August 6

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 10 - 12 • \$150

An exciting week of outdoor adventure awaits you! Hiking, kayaking, orienteering and more!

Insectagations

10001 Monday, July 5 - Friday, July 9

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 10 - 12 • \$150

10000 Monday, July 19 - Friday, July 23

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Ages 7 - 9 • \$150

Become an entomologist for a week as we discover the wonderful world of insects!

L.A.N.D. Camp (Learning About Nature through Discovery)

10008 Monday, June 14 - Friday, 18 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

10009 Monday, June 14 - Friday, 18 • 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Ages 4 - 6 • \$75

Bring your child out to discover the wonders of nature as we investigate different areas of the preserve including the forest, gardens, and meadows. This exciting camp will be packed full with fun activities, crafts, stories, and much more!

Eco-Wonders

10005 Monday, June 28 - Friday, July 2

Ages 7 - 9 • \$150

Come explore the wonders of nature at the preserve! We will go hiking, letter boxing, fishing and canoeing while experiencing all that is wild and wonderful.

Wildlife Warrior Camp

10004 Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30

Ages 8 - 12 • \$150

Warriors for wildlife are in need! We will get down and dirty through hands-on activities and create a much needed habitat for urban wildlife. Campers will become certified Junior Master Wildlife Gardeners upon completion of the week's activities. This is a great way to earn service learning hours for school and have a great time on summer break.



ADA STATEMENT

Mecklenburg County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of ability. Mecklenburg County will make reasonable accommodations in all programs to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements.

Mecklenburg County programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodations are necessary for participation in any program or service, participants are required to notify staff (at least 72 hours prior to program). This information is available in an alternative format for persons with disabilities upon request.



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation
*The Natural Place
To Be...*

